

### **Military Construction projects**

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations legislation includes \$223 million in projects for DOD facilities on the Central Coast.

"This level of funding for our local DOD facilities is an indication of just how important the Central Coast is to our national defense," Rep. Farr said. "I continue to support our local military installations and will use my seat on the appropriations committee to fund these vital programs."

### Local Projects:

#### Presidio of Monterey

- Advanced Individual Training Barracks \$63 million
- General Instruction Building \$39 million

### Fort Hunter Liggett

- ECS Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility \$22 million
- ECS Warehouse \$15 million
- Grenade Launcher Range \$1.4 million
- Hand Grenade Familiarization Range (Live) \$1.4 million
- Light Demolition Range \$2.7 million
- Tactical Vehicle Wash Rack \$9.5 million

### Camp Roberts

- Combined Arms Collective Training Facility \$19 million
- Monterey Satellite Communications Facility \$38 million

### Naval Postgraduate School

- International Academic Instruction Building \$11.96 million

### Veterans Affairs funding

The bill also includes historic levels of funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, setting fiscal year 2011 VA funding at \$120.8 billion, or \$11.2 billion more than fiscal year 2010.

Key VA funding levels:

- VA Health Administration, \$48.8 billion.
- Mental health services, \$5.2 billion
- Homeless veteran services, \$4.2 billion
- Assistance for veterans in rural areas, \$250 million
- Medical research, \$590 million

"I'm deeply proud of the work Democrats have done over the past three years to fund vital veterans programs that were neglected for far too long," said Rep. Farr. "When this year's funding bill is passed, Democrats will have championed increases to VA funding by 70 percent since 2007, providing benefits to 6 million veterans."

**VA burial benefits amendment**

Congressman Farr also used his seat as subcommittee vice-chairman to amend the bill during last week's subcommittee markup. He called for a study to increase burial benefits for veterans' families, which was accepted by voice vote and was included in Tuesday's bill.

Although only the first step, a study to bump up burial benefits to the percentage originally covered in 1973 would be important for many families of veterans. There have been increases since 1973, but they haven't kept pace with costs.

"Increasing burial benefits is important to the families of veterans across the country who often struggle when their loved ones pass away," Rep. Farr said, adding, "Increasing this benefit will also help advance the construction of our a veterans' cemetery on the Central Coast."

### **Next steps**

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill was one of the first two Appropriations bills to pass the full Appropriations Committee; the next step will be debate on the House Floor.

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